

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19 and 21-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 22 is amended, and claims 24-26 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Qin in the January 16, 2007 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23.

The Office Action rejects claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP2002351459 to Kitakaze et al. (Kitakaze). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 22 recites providing the percussion instrument that is not a button, detecting that the percussion instrument is beaten in a game start acceptance state, and starting the game when the percussion instrument signal is received. These features are supported in the specification at, for example, page 10, line 22-page 11, line 1. As discussed during the interview, Kitakaze discloses in Fig. 1 and at paragraph [0017], to start the game when a decision button 250 and selection buttons 251, 251 of the direction section 25 are operated, or when a transparent tablet for screen 11A, which can replace the direction section 25, is operated.

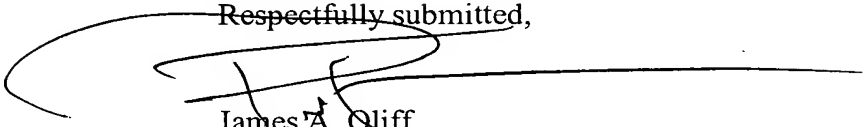
Kitakaze does not teach or suggest starting the game when the percussion instrument signal (not a signal from a button) is received, as recited in claim 22. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Kitakaze does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 22. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kitakaze is respectfully requested.

Claims 24-26 are added by this Amendment. Claim 24 recites providing a button that outputs a game start signal and outputting the game start signal when the button is operated in the game start acceptance state. Claim 24 also recites that the game starts when at least one of the percussion instrument signal and the game start signal is received. Claim 25 recites that the percussion instrument is beaten by a drum stick. Claim 26 recites a computer-usable program embodied on an information storage medium that performs the method. These features are supported in the specification at, for example, page 10, line 22-page 11, line 1. Claims 24-26 are allowable at least for their dependence on claim 22, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Paul Tsou
Registration No. 37,956

JAO:KXH/tls

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time
Date: February 7, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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